

H.R. 3326

(Mr. NYE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. NYE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of our troops and our military families and in support of a provision in the manager's amendment to the Defense appropriations bill which will help our military families.

Mr. Speaker, injured military personnel and veterans, including many who live in my district, often have to travel far from home to receive specialized medical treatment, taking them away from their families during a difficult time. The Fisher House Foundation is a public-private partnership which provides housing to allow military family members to be close to their loved ones during hospitalizations or medical treatment. Each year the Fisher House program serves about 10,000 families at no charge, enabling them to focus on their husbands and wives, parents, sons and daughters.

This amendment includes a provision which I offered to give more support to the Fisher House Foundation to provide housing to more military families. Mr. Speaker, the troops I worked with in Iraq and Afghanistan were willing to put their lives on the line for our country, and we should do everything in our power to ease the burden on our wounded warriors and their families. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this valuable program and in supporting our military families.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, here are a few thoughts on the Democrat health tax bill by Democrats:

"This bill . . . does not strike the balance between preserving what works in our current system and fixing what does not work."

Another: "To try to pay for health care reform on the backs of small businesses, I can't support that."

Finally: "The (House) bill being presented, with a poorly defined public option, is a Trojan horse leading to government-controlled health care, and it is not in the best interests of the public."

These are the words and concerns of some of our Democrat colleagues. The Democrat plan raises taxes and mandates on small businesses, killing jobs. It creates a government takeover of health care that will knock millions of Americans, including senior citizens on Medicare, off their current plans.

There is a better way to help Americans afford health care, and it starts with empowering the people, not Big Government.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

JUST DON'T GET SICK

(Ms. SHEA-PORTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Mr. Speaker, here's the problems Americans are facing today: no money, no insurance, get sick, disaster; preexisting condition, no insurance, get sick, disaster; laid off, no insurance, get sick, disaster; employer drops coverage, no insurance, get sick, disaster.

This is what the Democrats are trying to fix. This is what the public option and the exchange will fix. It allows people who like their insurance to keep it, and it will cover those who do not have insurance. The Republican health plan very simply is: just don't get sick.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Ms. MCCOLLUM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, reforming our Nation's health care system is an urgent national priority. Ensuring high-quality, affordable, access to health care for all Americans is our task here in Congress. Yet, opponents of reform are working to kill the bill and to do nothing about exploiting health care costs other than help insurance companies profit.

Democrats are working for real reform that empowers patients and their doctors to make the right choices for you. Democrats want health insurance for all Americans with a focus on saving and in investing and prevention for our children. Democrats want to make prescription drugs affordable and guarantee that preexisting conditions will be treated and not denied by insurance company bean counters. Democrats want a system that ensures all patients will receive evidence-based, quality care that's the standard.

My State of Minnesota has proven that high-quality, low-cost health care is a possibility here in the United States, and it should be the standard for all Americans. The time for action is now. We need to pass real health care reform.

YOU'RE JUST TOO OLD

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, when government runs health care, senior citizens sometimes are refused treatment because of their age. In Sweden, an 83-year-old woman was refused medical surgery by the government-run hospital. They said she was just too old for treatment. Marianne Skogh had pain and numbness in her legs for 5 years. She waited more than a year trying to get approval for back surgery to cure the problem. She was rejected by the government. Without the oper-

ation, she would be living in incredible turmoil. She said, "What kind of life is that?"

Despite her long wait, Marianne was told her ailment was treatable but she was just too old for surgery. The government-run hospital said since she had previous heart surgery, they were denying her the back surgery. They told her just to take some pain pills. When the pain pills didn't help, the government still wouldn't let her have the surgery. Marianne ended up paying for the operation herself with some private funds and funds she received from friends. She's now pain-free.

Government-run health care lets bureaucrats decide who receives rationed care and who doesn't, who lives and who just dies. And that's just the way it is.

AMERICA NEEDS QUALITY AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, America faces a vital decision to improve health care for all, both its quality and affordability. But follow the money. Ask yourself, Who's making the big bucks off the current arrangement? Aren't you tired of all those expensive medicine ads on TV? If you weren't sick before you watch them you're sick afterwards.

Pharmaceutical companies are the third most profitable industry in our country. They don't even manufacture most of those medicines here anymore. They outsourced them long ago. And their CEOs grab millions of dollars a year in salaries and bonuses from our middle class that's struggling more each year just to pay for insurance. And the insurance companies? They're raking in your health insurance dollars too. They don't deliver an ounce of care, but they've become the ninth most profitable industry in our country. Go to any state capital. Who owns the highest buildings in those towns? Insurance companies. That says it all. America needs quality, affordable health care, not insurance and pharmaceutical kingdoms.

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LISTEN TO THE SENIORS

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I have a lot of friends on the Democrat side of the aisle, and we, as Republicans, really care about your future, so I'd like for you to know that one of the largest voting blocs in the country is that of the senior citizens. When they read this and find out about it—and we are going to make sure they do—they're going to really hold you accountable.

So, when you go home, listen to your seniors because they're going to know what's in this bill, and I don't want you guys to lose. I really don't.

DOING NOTHING IS NOT AN OPTION

(Ms. CHU asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, not in six decades have we been this close to achieving the most crucial task of reforming our health care system. Let me be clear: we would be derelict in our duty to the American people if we let this opportunity go to waste.

Now, our colleagues on the other side of the aisle claim that this legislation amounts to the government takeover of health care and that Americans will be stripped of their choices of doctors and plans, but the reality is that everybody in this country will lose if they don't have health care reform.

People like Mary Smith, a 45-year-old with diabetes who just lost her job, she will no longer have to worry about whether she can get insurance again. Certainly, in my district, everybody will benefit, the 155,000 who lack health care coverage but, also, the majority of my constituents who are insured. They will have stability, security and peace of mind in having health care that they can count on no matter what happens. You will always have options for coverage even if you change or lose your job. You will never be denied coverage if you get sick.

Doing nothing is not an option.

BETTER ALTERNATIVE FOR HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. FLEMING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, as a doctor, one of the main reasons I came to Congress was to push for health care reform, that is, commonsense reform, not nonsense reform as proposed by our Democrat colleagues. That's why I'm proud to be an original cosponsor of the Empowering Patients First Act, a Republican bill for reform.

This bill contains all of the essential elements of good health care reform, including expanding private insurance to all Americans who want it, removing preexisting illnesses, improving portability, subsidies to the working poor, access to excellent primary and specialty care and, of course, instituting lawsuit reform. All of this is accomplished without a government takeover, without gutting Medicare, without long lines or bureaucrats interfering in the sacred doctor-patient relationship; and it is budget neutral.

It is obvious that private insurance, no matter who pays for it, is the gold standard. As we return to our districts and debate this important issue, I believe we will find that Americans truly want private insurance options, not the

government takeover of health care with the Soviet-style central planning of our economy.

THE RECOVERY ACT IS CREATING JOBS

(Mr. SCHRADER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SCHRADER. Mr. Speaker, I've come to the floor this week to dispel the assertion by Republican colleagues that the Recovery Act is not creating jobs. It's simply not accurate. I would like to talk to you about the first four construction transportation projects under way in my district.

Oregon 22, one of the few roads that connects the Willamette Valley to the Oregon coast, is getting two overlay construction projects, employing 44 and 80 workers respectively. These projects make sure that freight and tourists can keep our economy going.

Twenty workers are being put to work replacing the concrete barriers on Interstate 5, a major valley thoroughfare. This makes our highways safe. There are 120 workers who are being put to work paving and rebuilding sections of Highway 101, the only north-south road that connects the small Oregon coastal communities.

Mr. Speaker, those are 261 jobs under way in my district alone at this early stage of the recovery, and there are more in the works.

BRING FISCAL DISCIPLINE BACK TO WASHINGTON

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, in December 2007, our economy slipped into a recession, and since then, the recession has only gotten worse. The American people are hurting.

President Obama and Democrats in Congress promised that their stimulus plan would bring "immediate" relief. Unfortunately for the American people, the results are rolling in. Two million American jobs have been lost since the stimulus was signed into law. More than 400,000 jobs were lost in the month of June alone.

Just when you thought it was clear that we can't spend, borrow and tax our way to a growing economy, Democrats propose a government takeover of health care that will lead to higher taxes, to more government spending, and to even further job losses.

The American people deserve a real plan for real recovery, not another excuse to increase spending, to raise taxes, and to grow government. The Republican economic recovery plan brings fiscal discipline back to Washington, and it puts money back into the hands of the American people.

JOBS AND STIMULUS

(Mrs. MALONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, President Obama inherited a labor market in free fall. When President Bush left office in January, job losses peaked as employers slashed a stunning 741,000 jobs.

Congress worked quickly with the new administration to restore financial stability and to pass a recovery package that is beginning to take hold. The pace of job losses has eased from its decline at the end of the Bush administration. Last week, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke testified that the unemployment rate would be higher right now without the legislation Congress enacted.

By restoring financial stability and by implementing stimulus measures and a responsible budget, we will make the investments necessary to lay the foundation for economic recovery that will put Americans back to work now and that will create the jobs of the future.

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. REICHERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, when the House Ways and Means Committee recently considered the health care overhaul proposal, I supported an amendment that said if our constituents must join the government-run public plan, so should Members of Congress. Unfortunately, the Democrats rejected this amendment.

Mr. Speaker, I ask today: If the government-run plan is great enough for the American people, why isn't it good enough for the Members of Congress?

Americans deserve the freedom to choose their health care. This plan doesn't give them that choice. It will force Americans into a plan that supporters of the bill simply don't want.

We need to work together to protect and to strengthen the health care of every American, not take away choice and drive up costs. I urge my colleagues to reject this bill, to work together on a plan that will lower costs, while maintaining the freedoms of Americans to choose their health care.

And that is just some straight shooting from the sheriff.

IT IS TIME TO ENACT REAL HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, it is time to speak a little truth to power, to the powerful special interests and to the insurance companies that are willing to deep-six health care reform for millions of Americans by spreading misinformation and by scaring people. All the while, these big insurance companies raise deductibles, premiums, and copays. They drop people with preexisting conditions. They